THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): I agree with you and shall convey your feelings. We have always been active supporters of such things. We have always passed Resolutions in support of such developments. So this is nothing new.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity. The hon. Agriculture Minister is about to make a statement on the drought situation. In this context... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Sir, those sitting on the back benches are not given an opportunity to speak... (*Interruptions*)... Please allow the backbenchers also to make a submission...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: I would like to raise a very serious matter. Although power is in short supply throughout the country, the situation in Uttar Pradesh is particularly bad and everyone in the state is facing the difficulty. In the situation of drought the farmers are unable to use their pump-sets and tubewells as there is a shortage of electricity. The supply of power is very erratic. The Power Minister also belongs to that region. Even kerosene lamps cannot be lit as there is scarcity of kerosene oil. There is no electric supply even for lighting purposes. People are facing a lot of hardship. The Government should make arrangements to set up an efficient power supply system in Uttar Pradesh so that there is power supply round the clock. (*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member on the last Bench will speak now.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Sir, I would like to make a request regarding Hazaribagh district of Bihar. North Karnpura...(*Interruptions*)... two years back the Bihar Government had sent a proposal for setting up a Super Thermal Power Stations at that place. The project which would have a capacity of 1000 MW is estimated to cost Rs. 100 crore. This power station is expected to meet the power shortage in Bihar. There are two projects in the area—the Ashoka project and the Magadh project. Both are coal-based projects. These projects are also expected to contribute towards fulfilling the shortage of power. So I would urge the Central Government to give clearance to the North Karnpura project so that work can be started immediately (*Interruptions*)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record. Now, the Minister of Agriculture will make a Statement on drought situation.

(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: We are discussing the flood and drought situation in the country. Pleased don't do this.

(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: We are discussing the flood and drought situation in various parts of the country. Please allow us to listen.

(*Interruptions*)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: All matters are important. You will not interrupt and what you are going to say will not go on record.

(*Interruptions*)*

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*Not recorded.